



**TENNESSEE
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0380**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors/Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors

FROM: Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner

RE: High School End-of-Course Examinations (including the Gateway Tests)

DATE: October 30, 2001

The following is a response to questions the Department has received regarding the administration of high school end-of-course examinations, including the Gateway Examinations to students receiving special education.

Pursuant to the IDEA Regulations found at 34 C.F.R. § 300.138, students with disabilities are to be included in general State and district-wide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration, if necessary.

34 C.F.R. § 300.138 also requires the State or LEA to develop guidelines for the participation of students with disabilities in alternate assessments for those students who cannot participate in State and district-wide assessment programs.

All High School level IEPs must address how a student shall be assessed. Pursuant to Tennessee State Board of Education, Rule § 0520-1-3-.06, "end-of-course examinations shall be administered to all high school students." Therefore, if the IEP team determines that a student does not meet the requirements for taking the TCAP-Alternate Assessment, the student shall be given the opportunity to be assessed using the Gateway Examinations. In addition, the IEP Team must determine the general curriculum and any Gateway Courses appropriate for the student. The IEP team shall determine when the student shall be administered an end-of-course examination, and the goals and objectives to be assessed on the Examinations. Remediation for end-of-course examinations should be provided based on the student's IEP goals and objectives and may be provided through special education.

All students receiving special education who do not qualify for the TCAP-Alternate Assessment shall be provided the opportunity to be assessed using the Gateway Examinations and if a passing score is attained, receive a regular diploma. Attached are the guidelines Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams must use in determining if a student qualifies for the TCAP–Alternate Assessment.

cc: Jeff Roberts, Deputy Commissioner
Ben Brown, Executive Director of Assessment and Evaluation